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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/659,261

09/11/2003

Masahiro Konishi

829-615

3539

23117

7590

11/17/2005

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EXAMINER

DAVIS, ROBERT B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1722

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,261

Applicant(s)

KONISHI ET AL.

Examiner

Robert B. Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,14,16 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,14,16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 5, 14, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McKee et al (840,153: figures 1-4).

McKee et al teach a casting mold having an upper mold part (1) and a lower mold part (2) which together define a cavity (3). The upper mold part has a casting gate (4) defined by portions (5 and 6-see figures 1 and 4) to allow material to be cast into the cavity (3). The upper mold part also has a vent (17) which begins at the parting line of the two mold parts (1 and 2) as shown in figure 1. The vent is opposite of the casting gate as shown in figure 1. It is noted that the preamble recites a resin-molding die. The mold of McKee et al is clearly capable of casting resin and structurally meets the elements of the claims. Please note that the vent (17) receives excess cast material and thus fulfills the structural requirement of a bin. The gate is clearly capable of venting, as it remains open during the casting step.

3. Claims 1, 5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grandin et al (4,676,475: figure 5 and column 4, lines 29-35).

Grandin et al teach a mold having an upper mold part (7) and a lower mold part (4) which together define a female mold cavity (5, 5a). The upper mold part has a

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casting gate (9) and a vent (10). The casting gate is clearly capable of venting, as it remains open during the filling step. The vent (10) is also opposite from at least the opposite portion of the casting gate (9). Please note that the preamble recites resin and the mold of Grandin et al is clearly capable of casting resin.

4. Claims 1, 5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krishnan (4,095,637: figure 2 and column 4, lines 4-10).

Krishnan teaches a gravity fill opening (7) in the upper mold part (6). The upper mold part also has a vent opening (9) opposite the mold cavity from the fill opening (7). The mold also has a lower mold part (5) mating with the upper mold (6) to form the mold cavity in which a polyurethane article is cast. The fill opening (7) is capable of venting, as it is located in the top portion of the casting cavity.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5, 14, 16 and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Applicant's arguments and amendments, see amendment and remarks pages 2-4, filed August 30, 2005, with respect to 35 USC 112 and 101 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the claims with respect to 35 USC 112 and 101 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The remaining references show the state of the art of casting molds.

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8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert B. Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-1129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1722

11/14/05